

# South Dakota National Guard

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **SD Guard volunteers deliver food to people in need**

By Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Herrmann  
SDNG Public Affairs Office

RAPID CITY, S.D. – For the second year in a row, volunteer members of the South Dakota National Guard organized a food drive to support people in the communities in which they serve.

National Guard volunteers invited members of the community to participate in the food drive by dropping off non-perishable food items at one of the 22 armories located throughout the state from April – June.

More than 3,200 pounds of food was collected for the drive and distributed to social service organizations and food banks across the state.

“I think this food drive has been an awesome event because of how generous our Soldiers, Airmen and community members have been,” said Lt. Col. Lynn Wilson SDNG fulltime support chaplain. “They have opened their hearts and filled collection bins full of food. We collected over 3,200 pounds compared to last year’s 1,400 pounds.”

The Corner Stone Rescue Mission, of Rapid City, who serve the homeless, is one of the many non-profit organizations benefitting from the food drive.

“To get this food is such a blessing,” said Brian Mathis, Corner Stone program director. “We always struggle to make sure they have a balance diet. It’s so important because when you’re living on the streets the only thing you’re really eating is carbohydrates.”

On average, The Corner Stone serves approximately 430 meals a day. Last year they served over 141,000 meals and this year they expect to surpass that number.

“To be able to feed as many people as we do who are struggling is such a blessing,” said Mathis.

This year’s food drive is expected to benefit more people than last year.

“Last year’s drive was specifically for the Native American reservations,” said Wilson. “This year the food will be dispersed throughout 22 communities, as well as the reservations. I think the volunteers gathering the donations appreciate giving back to their own community.”

The food drive, while not an official function of the National Guard, is a welcomed adjunct activity showcasing volunteers’ commitment to serve some of South Dakota’s most needy people.

High resolution photos are available at [www.flickr.com/photos/southdakotationalguard](http://www.flickr.com/photos/southdakotationalguard)



**150624-Z-CW157-001:** U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Jenna Watkins, chaplain assistant, left, and Chaplain Lt. Col. Lynn Wilson, right, both members of the South Dakota Army National Guard, deliver non-perishable food items to The Corner Stone Rescue Mission in Rapid City, S.D., June 24, 2015. SDNG volunteers organized the food drive with the help of local community members to bring food to those in need. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Herrmann/Released)



**150624-Z-CW157-005:** U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Jenna Watkins, chaplain assistant, left, and Chaplain Lt. Col. Lynn Wilson, right, both members of the South Dakota Army National Guard, deliver non-perishable food items to The Corner Stone Rescue Mission in Rapid City, S.D., June 24, 2015. SDNG volunteers organized the food drive with the help of local community members to bring food to those in need. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Herrmann/Released)

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